



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

February 2018, Volume 60 No.6



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

2018 is shaping up to be a very full year. The League’s commitment to helping inform, register and promote informed participation in government has never been more important. We are always looking for opportunities to make a difference.

One project we are working on is interviewing our local legislators. This is a chance for us to ask important questions about local and statewide concerns and find out what they view as the major issues to be dealt with in 2018. We are looking for at least 5 people to help with the interviews and don't worry, there is training involved. See Volunteers section for specifics.

The upcoming June election season promises to be busy and LWVVC needs to begin thinking about organizing candidates forums around the county. We may also want to provide information to prospective voters about the new district voting changes in Ventura and Oxnard. And of course, we will continue registering voters at high schools. All of these activities fall under the heading of Voter Services and will only get done if we all pitch in.

On February 8, we are co-sponsoring the showing of the film *Equal Means Equal* at Ventura College (check Special Events below). Be sure to come. You will (or maybe you won't) be amazed by all the ways in which women are not treated as equals in this country including the incredible toll it is taking on women and our entire society. The film will leave you feeling encouraged about the future including renewed efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

On February 24, we will be holding our Program Planning meeting (location and time TBA) where we will discuss and come to consensus on where we feel LWVUS should focus its efforts for the next two years. LWVUS uses input it receives from all local Leagues to help plan its agenda for, among other things, the 2018 National Convention to be held in Chicago later this year. Please save the date and join us. The meeting always includes a stimulating sharing of ideas and is a great chance to have your voice heard within your League.

In closing, we are very sorry to have lost Helen LaMonte, a valuable, capable and dedicated member of LWVVC. We will miss her talents, viewpoint and steadfast efforts on behalf of LWVVC.

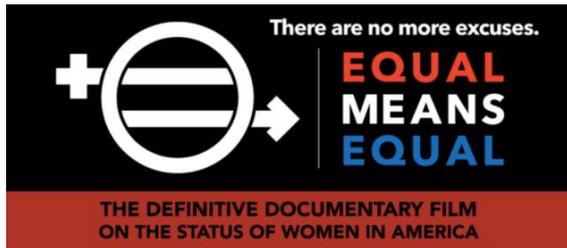
Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

Inside This Issue...

- President’s Message
- Special Events
- Ballot Measures
- Filing Season
- Pol Interviews
- Committee Reports
- Board Meeting Notes
- Membership News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Calendar of Events

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Showing of the film *Equal Means Equal*.

When: Thursday, February 8
Time: 6:00 pm.
Location: Ventura Community College
Applied Sciences Building.

Produced by Kamala Lopez, *Equal Means Equal* offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today by uncovering outdated and discriminatory attitudes that influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Director, Kamala Lopez, reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. LWVVC is collaborating with the local chapter of the National Organization for Woman (NOW), The Acorn Project, Justice for All and Ventura Community College in this venture.

Click [here](#) to watch the film's trailer

Vote with the League in June

Announcement to Local Leagues: June 2018 Ballot Measures

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a The League Recommends (a.k.a. Vote with the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1) The LWVC opposes this measure.

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5) The LWVC supports this measure.

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law.

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

The LWVC supports this measure.

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds with the money to be used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. Water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and a key part of our state response to climate change.

How does the League make ballot measure endorsements? We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy [positions](#) and [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on member [study and consensus](#).

Sincerely,
Helen L. Hutchison, President, LWV California

Time to File if You Want to Run for Office

Candidate Filing Window Opens for Local Elections

Many congressional, state and LOCAL offices are up for election this June. For candidates wishing to run, the filing window to register to run is February, 12 - March, 9. Visit <https://www.runforoffice.org> to see a list of open seats you may be eligible to run for based on your address. Open offices in Ventura County include Superintendent of Schools, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer-Tax Collector. Find details and guidance for running for these offices here: <http://recorder.countyofventura.org/elections/elections/candidates-campaigns/candidate-filing/>

Board of Directors:

President:
Patricia Essick

Vice President:
Betsy Patterson

Secretary:
Judith Murphy

Treasurer:
Karen Savitt

Directors at Large:
Pat Butler
Barbara Doyle
Suzanne Harvey
Steve Lattimore
Carol Lindberg
Chelsea Sutula

Also, the Oxnard City Council and Mayor are facing a recall election so many district-based council member's spots are up for grabs. The Oxnard City Council scheduled their recall election for Tuesday, May 1, 2018, which means the candidate filing period opened on January, 25 and will close on February, 15.

Do you know someone who wants to be a candidate to replace the Mayor or one of three City Council Member spots? Perhaps that person is you! If so, please have them promptly contact Oxnard City Clerk Michelle Ascencion at Michelle.Ascencion@oxnard.org or call 805-385-7805 to schedule a 30-minute meeting at Oxnard City Hall to walk through the paperwork.

Another great resource is the [Ventura Political Women's Council](#), (VPWC) a multi-partisan organization whose objective is to achieve equality for all women. They encourage, recruit, train and support diverse female candidates who support the goals of the VCWC and pledge to bring a woman's perspective to every issue foremost including reproductive health; and social, educational, environmental and economic justice.

LWVVC looks forward to hosting important candidates forums in the spring as we approach these elections. In the meantime, we encourage all citizens to get informed, get involved and make a difference!

Submitted by: Chelsea Sutula, Director

Representative Interviews

Let's Ask Them Some Tough Questions

Would you like to meet your political representatives in person?

Would you like to ask them about how they feel about money bail reform and learn about how it is currently applied and of suggestions on ways to improve it?

Are you interested in learning about your representative's position on using the California Environmental Equality Act (CEQA) to delay construction of affordable housing projects and what is happening now?

Would you like to know what your representatives think is the best way to prepare for a predicted rise in sea level including their ideas on what to do about it? Or, what they think about climate change as a contributing factor?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions you should join our Legislative Interview Committee. We need at least five members and more is better. We need to complete the interviews by the first week in March. Being a member of the committee will take meeting at least one time before the interview(s), reading the prepared background materials, and participating in at least one interview. If you have been thinking about getting more involved, this is a great place to start. Contact Pat Essick by February 5th if you want to join the committee.

Submitted by: Pat Essick, President

LWVVC Committee Reports

► **Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair:**

The Cannabis Study Sub-committee is taking a break until further notice.

► **Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:**

Things will get going toward the end of the League year, late May or so.

► **Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair:**



On Saturday, January 13, 2018, over 50 people gathered at California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI) for a Civil Discourse Facilitator training session presented by LWV San Diego members Martha Cox and Mary Thompson. Click [HERE](#) to view a video of this event.

We learned a lot but many recognized the need to practice simply by having a conversation to hone our listening-to-understand skills as well as building trust between strangers. We are now moving to our next phase which has two aspects:

- 1) Developing a Civil Discourse project with students at CSUCI with the goal being to hold an on-campus discussion of a controversial topic picked by the students. We are planning for early March, and
- 2) Developing social get-togethers throughout the county for LWVVC members to practice having a conversation, facilitating civility in discussions of difficult topics and reaching out to people with different perspectives to understand and work on finding a common ground to suggest solutions to problems locally, state-wide and nationally. This is our “Sips & Civility” project.



Now that we have a few members who have been trained in the “art” of facilitating civil discourse it is time to have some fun with it. The Committee is planning a series of “Sips & Civility” get-togethers to practice having simple conversations to better understand differing perspectives ultimately progressing to talking about more difficult topics with people who have other points of view.

Ojai group beginning to talk about an “Ojai Pub Night” to start with having conversations and then move on to facilitation. Maybe the first Wednesday night of the month, meeting at various locations in Ojai. - Betsy Patterson, Committee Chair

► **Nominations Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:**

Things will get going toward the end of the League year, May or so. In the meantime, the Committee needs another member. Interested? Let us know.

► **Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair:**

► **Scholarship Committee - Geri Loe, Chair:**

► **Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair:**

What do we have planned in our register-high-school-students-to-vote 2018 pipeline? We have two projects coming up: Channel Islands High School and Oxnard High School. So far neither school has provided us with dates but we expect they will likely be scheduled some time in February. In the meantime, we are working with Pacifica High School's new assistant principal to familiarize him with the work LWVVC does in Voter Registration for senior students in Ventura County. More details to follow. - Carmen Hurd, Committee Chair

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below for the when's and where's. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from January Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Voters Service – David Maron provided an overview of the local offices up for election in June 2018 and discussed how he and Helen had organized forums in the past. He will write a piece for the VOTER with job descriptions encouraging members to volunteer to work on the forums.
- Betsy Patterson gave an updated on the upcoming Civil Discourse Training Session.
- President's Report – Pat Essick noted that local legislator interviews are ready to schedule. She will ask for more volunteers.
- Program – Steve Lattimore updated the Board on plans for our Program Planning meeting currently scheduled for February 24.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donors – Thank you to our donors!!

- David Maron

In Memoriam

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County recently lost a remarkable woman.

Helen LaMonte, a longtime member, joined the Board immediately after becoming a member. Over the years she held the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Member-at-Large and Voter Service Chair.

She covered the County organizing Candidates Forums and general meetings. Be it cookies to city clerks when negotiating for venues, balloons and boutonnieres for Forum participants or mimosas at Christmas parties, Helen added good taste and fun to everything she did.

Always soft spoken and kind, her "let's do it" attitude made working with her special.

Helen was generous as she was kind, ever offering financial assistance when we needed a special boost for many of our projects.

We will miss her.

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested in getting involved, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

Why Volunteer?

We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that's why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.

Your voice is crucial. What you bring to your local League is priceless.

If you think you're not ready – you're ready!

If you think you don't know enough – you're enough!

Help out with a single task or event or sign on to something long term. Work remotely or in-person. We'll find the perfect fit for you.

▶ Needed, a **Voter Service Chairperson** to work closely with League member David Maron, city government offices and volunteers to help oversee our candidates forums including arranging location sites, organizing volunteers to run the forums, and inviting candidates to participate. This is a very important job and an important role for the League, especially in election years. Usually the person who fills this position becomes a member of the Board. If you have questions or would like to take on this position, please contact [Pat Essick](#).

▶ **Legislative Interview Committee. We're looking for at least five members and more is better.** We need to complete the interviews by the first week in March. Being a member of the committee will involve meeting at least one time before the interview(s), reading the prepared background materials, and participating in at least one interview. If you have been thinking about getting more involved this is a great place to start. Contact [Pat Essick](#) by February 5th if you want to join the committee.

▶ Soon we will be laying the groundwork for a **possible forum on artificial intelligence and up-coming candidates forums**. Start thinking about whether this is something you could participate in.

▶ **Join our Civil Discourse group** and learn how to recognize and participate in respectful communication to find solutions to contentious issues. Work with other members, reach out to college students, engage in small discussions. The goal of the group will be to have frequent social hours with larger groups to discuss, civilly, issues that concern all of us, not to find THE solution but to practice listening and understanding other points of view. A program will be offered to LWV members who would like to participate on campus with students or would prefer to work with other members in our communities, in small social hour groups and then larger community groups. If interested email [Betsy Patterson](#).

▶ **Advocacy (Electoral College Reform etc.), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Here's a list of current committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Budget Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee

▶ **Articles for the VOTER. We are always looking for articles** to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members can email it to [us](#). If needed we may edit your

pieces for length or in instances where language is “un-league-like” - we’re all about civil discourse. [VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.](#)

▶ **LWV Nominations Committee has one opening for a general member.** The committee is composed of three general members and two board members and meets in the spring for purposes of putting together a slate of officers and board members to be adopted by the membership at the annual June meeting. Please send [us](#) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested in serving or have questions.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and tell us what you need. We’ll include it in the next VOTER. Please include dates, location, time of day.

CALENDAR

• all league meetings are open to the public •

(Calendar Can Also Be Found On Our Website)

▶ **Thursday, February 8 - LWVVC Board Meeting** – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month. Following is the schedule for the 2018 League year:

- March, 8
- April, 12
- May, 10
- June, 14

▶ **Thursday, February 8 - Showing of the film *Equal Means Equal*** produced by Kamala Lopez - 6:00 pm. Location: Ventura Community College, Applied Sciences Building, Ventura. *Equal Means Equal* offers a look at how women are treated in the United States today by uncovering outdated and discriminatory attitudes that influence seemingly disparate issues from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Lopez reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling argument for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

▶ **Saturday, February 24 - Program Planning Meeting** - Details TBD.

